

**March 25, 2020**

### **St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update**

Today, as of 5:00 PM, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) has:

- One death.
- 119 total positive cases, an increase of 22 new positive cases from yesterday's 97.
- The St. Louis County Department of Health fielded a total of 604 calls on 3/24/2020. This marks a decrease from the 885 calls fielded on 3/23/2020.

As a reminder, the manner in which the numbers has changed to streamline the process. The practice should bring local health departments to a consistent level of the timing and reporting of the numbers. Furthermore, it is important to understand the statistics provided are not reflective of the epidemic, rather they are reflective of the information now available.

### **Risk**

It is important to understand that **everyone** is at risk of contracting COVID-19. This pandemic will affect all people, regardless of age, sex, race, or health conditions. The CDC identified that "the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus."

According to the CDC, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk with severe viral illness. However to date, data on COVID-19 has not shown increased risk
- Other high-risk conditions could include:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment
  - People of any age with severe obesity or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not /well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk

Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications

### **Testing Locations and Instructions**

Filters are in place to ensure an expedited testing process for those that meet the necessary criteria. Citizens must call prior to arriving at any testing facility. This is to ensure that individuals are filtered to

the next step, if any, appropriately. An operator will transfer them to a screener to get authorization for testing and provide further instruction.

Phone numbers are associated with physical location of that citizen. A map attached to this email displays this. Those numbers are:

North County – (314)653-5000

Mid County – (314)747-3000

West County – (314)251-0500

South County – (314)966-9666

Additionally, all SSM Health area hospitals can be reached for testing information at [www.ssmhealth.com/covid19](http://www.ssmhealth.com/covid19).

These processes are in place to ensure that medical professionals, facilities, and supplies are not inundated and exhausted unnecessarily. Furthermore, it reduces the time and manner that people that potentially have COVID-19 are in public.

### **Daily Information**

Residents experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, should contact the St. Louis County Health Line at (314)615-2660 with their concerns. Those who have reason to believe they have encountered a person infected with COVID-19 should also utilize that number.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, [www.stlcorona.com](http://www.stlcorona.com). Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information available.



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